

VZCZCXRO9537  
RR RUEHAG RUEHDA RUEHDF RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHLN RUEHLZ RUEHROV  
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R 121056Z JAN 06  
FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5519  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA  
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHDC  
RUERAFX/DIR AFMIC FORT DETRICK MD  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC  
RUEHRC/USDA WASHDC

UNCLAS ZAGREB 000039

SIPDIS

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DEPT PLEASE PASS TO DS/DSS, DS/IP, M/MED/JCTRIPLETT  
FAS/CMP/DLP WETZEL AND MAGGINNIS  
FAS/ITP/EAMED POMEROY AND FLEMING  
CA/OCS/ACS RICK DOWELL  
USAID FOR E&E/ECA/B/ANNE CONVERY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [SENV](#) [ECON](#) [EAGR](#) [PREL](#) [HR](#)

SUBJECT: CROATIA: AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATE: JANUARY 12

REF: ZAGREB 1985 AND PREVIOUS

1) SUMMARY: As of January 12, no additional cases of H5N1 have been identified in Croatia. The GOC is using its new real time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) machine to continue testing for the H5N1 subtype. The Agriculture Minister is preparing to attend the Beijing donors' conference where he was invited by the Chinese government to present the GOC's response to avian influenza. END SUMMARY

NEW PCR MACHINE IS IN PLACE, BUT FOR HOW LONG?

12. The RT-PCR machine is installed in the Zagreb branch of the Croatian Veterinary Institute lab. Vladimir Savic, head of the poultry department at the Institute, expressed concern that Agriculture Ministry officials have not articulated a plan for continuing to lease or purchase the PCR machine after the Dutch-funded lease period expires. Oscar Meuffels, Dutch agricultural counsellor, said the GOC must make a decision by early February about the RT-PCR machine or it will be returned to Roche. Savic's lab continues to test for H5N1 at a rate of 100 samples per week.

GOC INVITED TO DISCUSS AI EXPERIENCE IN BEIJING

13. Savic said his lab is providing data to the Ministry of Agriculture in preparation for Agriculture Minister Petar Cobankovic's trip to the Beijing donors' conference next week. The Minister's office confirmed that the Chinese government invited Cobankovic to present Croatia's experience addressing avian influenza at the conference. Sanja Separovic, Head of the Animal Health Department and Veterinary Practice Department and Ankica Labrovic from the Veterinary Directorate are expected to accompany Cobankovic.

DELAWIE